

Montana Newsletter

Montana State Library

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News



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SEPTEMBER 1991

UM Librarian Witnesses History in Moscow Visit

Karen Hatcher, dean of the University of Montana's Mansfield Library, became a witness to history last month while attending a conference in the Soviet Union.

In a message relayed to her staff August 20, Hatcher reported all was fine in Moscow, although attendance was way down at the conference she was there to attend. Hatcher said her hotel was just around the corner from the Russian parliament building where Russian President Boris Yeltsin is headquartered.

Hatcher returned to the United States September 2. She was accompanied by Leza Hamby, librarian at Rocky Mountain Laboratories in Hamilton.



Curious George drew 200 curious children to his 50th birthday party July 30 at the Missoula Public Library. (Photo by Michael Gallacher of the Missoulian)

1990 Censorship Report Details Book Challenges

The Washington, D.C.-based civil liberties group People For the American Way released its annual report on school censorship August 28, calling 1990-91 "the single worst year for school censorship."

The report cited 264 incidents of what the group called "attacks on the freedom to learn," up 20% from the previous year. Most related to materials used in drug abuse prevention or sexuality curricula, the group noted.

People For the American Way President Arthur J. Kropp said challengers typically alleged that the materials they objected to promoted satanism or so-called "New Age religion."

Miles City Public Library Gets Coal Tax Grant

The roof of the Miles City Public Library, which has leaked since 1979, will be replaced with the help of a \$13,000 grant from the Montana Coal Board and a \$3,000 local donation.

Library Director Delores Drennan said she was "overjoyed" by the board's approval and the \$3,000, noting, "After many years, the library will have a new roof."

The Coal Board met August 14 in Miles City and gave the project final approval. Members had earlier stipulated that some local money be found to add to the grant.

The library's roof was installed in 1969 and started leaking 10 years later. The leaking has damaged some rare books.

Butte Library Plans Move

The Butte-Silver Bow Public Library will move into its new quarters in the former US WEST building sometime in October.

The building has undergone extensive remodeling in order to accommodate the library.

A human chain will transport the thousands of books in the library's collection.

Space in the new facility is about double what the library had in its former facility.

Security strips have been placed in most of the library's collection and will activate a new alarm system if not properly checked out.

The State Library is a clearing-house for library materials challenges in Montana. Librarians should report materials challenges to Sheila Cates, coordinator of Library Development, 444-5352.

A copy of the State Library's "Incident Report" form will be sent to any librarian who requests one.

Banned Books Week is being held from September 29 to October 5. This year's theme is, "Celebrating the Bill of Rights Bicentennial."

Library Development will provide a list of challenged books to any library wishing to set up a display for Banned Books Week.



Smokey the Bear, accompanied by U.S. Forest Service staff from Miles City, visited the Colstrip Bicentennial Library on July 26 as part of the summer reading program, "Get the 'Bear' Facts-Read!" (Photo by Diana Bailey, Rosebud County Press)

On the Library Shelf

The following library-related titles are available from Information Resources at the State Library:

Libraries and Information Services Today (025.52 Librari);
The Library Book (027.4752 Schucha);
The Whole Library Handbook (R 020.973 Whole).

Library Statistics and Directory Forms Needed

If you haven't submitted a completed statistics or directory form to the State Library, please do so as soon as possible.

Montana law requires public library trustees to submit an annual report of statistical information to the State Library.

Although submitting directory information is not required, a library's directory information will not be included in the 1992 Montana Library Directory unless the appropriate form is completed and returned as soon as possible to the State Library.

If you need either a statistics or a directory form, contact Diane Gunderson at the State Library at 444-5349.

Collection Management Policies Due October 1

Your library must have an approved collection management policy on file with the State Library by October 1 in order to receive any LSCA grant offered by the State Library Commission after that.

No LSCA grant applications will be furnished to any library unless an approved collection management policy is on file that meets current State Library Commission guidelines and has prior approval from the library's governing body.

If you have questions, contact the Library Development Program at 444-5349.

Reservation Map Offered

"A Map of American Indian History," a 24x36" map of U.S. reservations, chronicles the Native American story from an Indian perspective.

It answers such as questions as, "When did Indians become U.S. citizens?" (1924), and "How many reservations are there?" (89).

The maps are available for \$4.95 each, plus \$4 for shipping a minimum order of 20, from Thunderbird Enterprises, 8821 N. 1st St., Phoenix, AZ, 85020.

Upcoming Conferences

DIALOG System Seminar, presented by Judy Fair-Spaulling, October 3, Helena; **Refresher**, October 4, Billings; **Refresher**, October 5, Bozeman; **Refresher**, October 8, Helena; **Agriculture/Environment & Biotechnology databases seminar**, October 8, Helena. Call 719-531-5473 for details.

"Legal Applications of Non-Legal Databases," October 5, College of Great Falls, presented by Judy Meadows and Judy Fair-Spaulling. Call 719-531-5473.

"The 21st Century: The Future of Rural and Small Libraries," November 14-16, Birmingham, AL. Deadline is October 25; contact College of Continuing Education, Clarion University of PA, Clarion, PA, 16214-1232.

Literacy Volunteers of America, Conference '91, November 14-16, Orlando, FL. (Nance Craft and Judie Overbeek of Flathead County LVA will present a session November 15.)

U.S. Education Goals Subject of Sourcebook

"America 2000: An Education Strategy" is the name of a sourcebook published in April by the U.S. Department of Education.

Expanding on six education goals drawn up by the nation's governors, the book outlines methods for achieving them.

For a copy, contact the Dept. of Education at 1-800-872-5327.

Library Largesesse Honored

The American Library Trustee Association (ALTA) has a Major Benefactors Honor Award to recognize local individuals, families or businesses making major donations to public libraries.

Benefits can be money, real or personal property, negotiable paper or other tangible contributions.

Nomination deadline is December 1. For a form, contact ALTA, ALA, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, 60611.

Children's Book Reviews

The key after each review gives the grade level for which the book would be appropriate, the reviewer's assessment of the book's quality (Q) and popularity (P) level (with Q4 and P4 being the highest possible rating), the publisher's information, publication date, number of pages, price and ISBN number.

Song for a Shadow, by Bernie MacKinnon (reviewed by Judy Stephenson, librarian, Judith Gap Schools).

Being the son of an internationally famous rock star isn't wonderful. Aaron Webb finds it difficult to decide who he is and where he fits as he struggles with his father's fame and his mother's mental instability.

At 18, Aaron sells his guitar, sends his car over a cliff and thumbs his way toward Canada. The trip, which is far from pleasant, ends in a small Maine town where Aaron assumes a new persona, gets a job, joins a garage band and falls in love. After a few months of independence, stability and acceptance for himself, Aaron feels strong enough to tackle the worlds of his parents. This is something he feels he must do before he can truly find himself.

Because the search for self appeals to most teenagers, this could be a popular book. Those students interested in rock and its history will also find much to hold their attention.

(Grades 7-12; Q3/P3; Houghton Mifflin, Boston; 1991; 311 pp.; \$16.95.)

Insect Zoo, by Susan Meyers (reviewed by Judy Stephenson).

Most elementary children have visited a zoo, but few have had the opportunity to visit one like the San Francisco Insect Zoo.

The numerous photographs by Richard Hewett allow a visual tour while the text discusses not only what a visitor actually sees, but behind-the-scenes activities such as

collection and preparation of food and incubation and hatching processes as well.

In addition, Meyers provides a running commentary on the history, contributions, habits and peculiarities of numerous insects. She also explains how specimens are first checked out by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, then collected, transported and eventually housed at the zoo in their own special, escape-proof exhibit cases.

The zoo's reference library and annual open house, where insect delicacies are served, wrap up this visit to a most unusual and intriguing zoo.

Children who like zoos and find insects interesting will love this work.

(Grades 1-4; Q4/P4; Dutton, New York; 1991; 48 pp.; \$16.95.)

Tell Me Your Best Thing, by Anna Grossnickle Hines (reviewed by Judy Stephenson).

Belonging is important, but is it worth having the class bully know your deepest, darkest secrets? Sophie, a third-grader, has to make a decision about the importance of belonging before she joins Charlotte's Best-Worst Club. She and her best friend Jill will both have to further evaluate how important it is to be one of the crowd after Charlotte coerces Jill into telling Sophie's current secret.

Classroom behavior and remarks made by classmates lead the teacher and the principal to suspect parental abuse. A visit to the principal's office clears this up when Sophie has to admit she accidentally backed into a wall heater in the bathroom at home.

When Sophie stands up to Charlotte and quits the B-W Club, she discovers a new best thing about herself.

Children who feel left out or bullied will appreciate Sophie's trials and will cheer her ultimate success.

(Grades 2-4; Q3/P3; Dutton, New York; 1991; 115 pp.; \$13.95.)

Hannah On Her Way, by Claudia Mills (reviewed by Darlene Staffeldt, Information Resources Director, Montana State Library).

Quiet, introspective Hannah Keddie is surprised when she is befriended by the other new girl at school, popular Caitie Crystal. Hannah and Caitie have a give-and-take relationship as each helps the other grow up just a little bit. Leaving childhood behind seems terribly difficult at times, such as when the lovely long braid has to come off. Building good, strong friendships is hard work but worth it in the long run.

(Grades 3-7; Q4/P3; Macmillan; 1991; 151 pp.; \$12.95; ISBN 0-02-767011-2.)

The Emperor's New Clothes, by Hans Christian Andersen, retold by Riki Levinson, illustrated by Robert Byrd (reviewed by Darlene Staffeldt).

This classic tale of vanity and foolish pride will always be a favorite. The weavers make the magnificent clothes that cannot be seen by those who are stupid or unfit for office. Is the emperor unfit for office?

Artist Robert Byrd portrays the emperor and his villagers as richly adorned animals. The illustrations are very colorful and truly enrich the classic story.

(PS-2; Q3/P3; Dutton Children's Books; 1991; 38 unnumbered pages; \$14.95; ISBN 0-525-44611-7.)

Hillbilly Choir, by Rhea Beth Ross (reviewed by Darlene Staffeldt).

Laurie does not know what she wants. She wants to go home to the rural community in Arkansas where she spent her young childhood. Next, she wants to allow her ambitious mother to aid her burgeoning singing career and take her back to the big cities. She wants both lives, and at 15, thinks she can have them both. Will it work? A slow-moving story with

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some old-fashioned values and lessons.

(Grades 6-9; Q3/P2; Houghton Mifflin; 1991; 166 pp.; \$13.95; ISBN 0-395-53356-2.)

Hattie and the Wild Waves, by Barbara Cooney (reviewed by Marilyn Taylor, Flathead County Library, Kalispell).

Barbara Cooney has done it again! This is a beautifully illustrated book and well-told story. The pictures are exquisitely rendered.

Hattie and her family are colorfully drawn, and each member is described in terms a young child will find interesting and delightful.

Hattie begins drawing early in life, which is fine for a hobby, but it's not an accepted occupation for a girl in this era. But it's what Hattie wants to do the rest of her life and does as often as she can.

As each family member grows up and pursues their own life, Hattie grows up also and as an adult finally makes her dream come true.

The pictures are marvelous as only Cooney can paint them and give the book the feel of looking back in an old family album.

(PS-3; Viking; 1990; 40 pp.; \$14.95.)

The River, by Gary Paulsen (reviewed by Charlotte Henson, librarian, Lincoln/Hawthorne Schools, Helena).

On the cover blurb of this sequel to the Newbery Honor book *Hatchet*, Paulsen claims *National Geographic* phoned him to find out where they might interview Brian, the hero of *Hatchet*.

I believe him because Brian is one of those fictional characters who do seem real. Thus it is no surprise that Paulsen brings him back in *The River*. Unfortunately, *The River* is almost an exact remake of *Hatchet*, albeit shorter and with less plot.

When the army decides to study Brian's survival techniques, they send him and a psychologist to another isolated Canadian lake. As luck would have it, lightning sends

the man into a coma. Brian decides he must raft the helpless adult downriver to medical help.

Implausible as it all is, if you liked *Hatchet*, you will probably enjoy *The River*. And if you hated *Hatchet*, you will still want *The River* to satisfy the countless fans and eager friends of Brian.

(Grades 4-up; Q3/P4; Delacorte; 1991; \$14.95; ISBN 0-385-30388-2.)

Joey's Story, by Gilda Berger (reviewed by Michael Hutchinson, Flathead County Library, Kalispell).

The second in Berger's "Get Real! Straight Talk About Drugs" series, this slim volume is a true account of a recovering addict's grim world of substance abuse. The young narrator describes in vivid detail his introduction to drugs and alcohol, the effect of addiction on his life and family, and his painful daily struggle to control and live with his habit.

Brutally straightforward in its depiction of the life of a drug user, *Joey's Story* offers no easy answers. It is, however, a testimony to one young man's courage and persistence in overcoming his addiction.

The book's easy-to-read format will make it more attractive to the target audience. Recommended for all school and public libraries.

(Grades 7-up; Q3/P3; Millbrook Press; 64 pp.; \$12.90.)

Make Four Million Dollars by Next Tuesday, by Stephen Manes, illustrated by George Ulrich (reviewed by Barb Benish, librarian, Montana City School).

Stephen Manes writes humorous, zany books that kids love, and this book is no exception.

Once Jason Nozzle begins reading *Make Four Million ...* by Dr. K. Pinkerton Silverfish, he's caught in a spell. Dreams of "slick new clothes and wild new shoes and a portable CD player and a season ticket for every sport" overcome him with their allure, and he quickly bids reason adieu.

I had a bit of trouble suspending disbelief when reading about the

extravagant lengths Jason goes to to follow the book's prescribed get-rich-quick formula. What kid would risk peer ridicule by pinning papers marked with dollar signs over his clothes and not even question how this would make him rich?

But this story is fun, reads quickly, and will engage kids, though they may feel a little conned at finding out like Jason did that getting rich quick isn't an easy, or even enviable, preoccupation.

(Grades 4-6; Q3/P3; Bantam Skylark; 1991; 87 pp.; \$14.95.)

Summer of Fire: Yellowstone 1988, by Patricia Lauber (reviewed by Joyce Johnson, Flathead County Library, Kalispell).

Well-written and dignified by superb color photographs, *Summer of Fire* explores the intrinsic value of fire to forests. A brief history of Yellowstone Park introduces the book, but the focus quickly goes to the summer of 1988 and the seemingly devastating fires.

The most important parts discuss the regrowth of burned areas; these sections are more scientific in nature, dealing with trees and their reproduction, birds and ground animals, larger animals such as bison, deer and elk, and with the profusion of plants and ground cover. Lauber also discusses the research opportunities afforded by the fires in terms of animal habitat and plant and tree regrowth.

(Grades 4-up; Q4/P4; Orchard Books; 1991; 64 pp.; \$17.99.)

The Bill of Rights, by Milton Meltzer (reviewed by Cindy Rooley, Liberty County Library, Chester).

Meltzer has written a very enjoyable book about the history of the Bill of Rights, starting with the Magna Carta of 1215 and describing the changes through the 1990s.

The Bill of Rights in our history and current issues related to the 14 amendments are all discussed.

The style flows smoothly and holds your interest. Bibliography and index are included.

(Grades 7-up; Crowell; 1991; \$14.89; ISBN 0-690-04807-6.)

Press Roundup

The **Wibaux Public Library** held its first summer reading program this summer; 43 kids showed up for the first program. A handmade teddy bear was given away July 24.

On July 31, writer Patricia Nell Warren spoke at the **Kohrs Memorial Library** in Deer Lodge, which was built by her great-grandparents.

Story-hour kids were invited to ride on the **North Valley Public Library's** float in the Creamery Picnic Parade August 3 in Stevensville.

The "donate-a-magazine" effort at **Lewis & Clark Library** in Helena has netted nearly \$3,000 to help pay for periodical subscriptions.

Stillwater County Library has started fundraising in order to move the library to a larger space.

New titles at the **Butte-Silver Bow Public Library** now have security strips. The strips will set off the security system in the library's new, renovated site.

A violinist visited the **Sidney Public Library** on July 23.

The **Phillips County Library** in Malta held a "Teddy Bear's Picnic" story hour on July 19.

A new LaserCat computer station is in place at the **Conrad Public Library**.

Construction of a new addition to the **Red Lodge Carnegie Library** is underway.

To help fund its book-leasing plan, **Philipsburg Public Library** staff sold "logs" for a log race on July 27.

An endowment fund for **Bozeman Public Library** has already met half of its \$250,000 goal.

Kids took part in an obstacle course August 6 at the **Petroleum County Community Library** in Winnett.

Being debated in Anaconda is whether **Hearst Free Library's** budget should be separate or part of the city-county general fund.

Fallon County Library in Baker had 83 kids register for the summer reading program—about twice as many as expected.

The **Broadwater County Library** in Townsend is closed on Fridays as of July 26.

Budget woes have dictated a 36-hour week at the **Miles City Public Library**.

Kids aged 7 and up who read 4-6 books this summer from the **Twin Bridges Public Library** got to go to the Museum of the Rockies.

The **Parmly Billings Library** had a bookmobile and display at the MontanaFair.

Snakes and exotic critters were on display August 10 at the **Great Falls Public Library**.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation granted **Kohrs Memorial Library** in Deer Lodge \$1,250 to study ways to find more space and to improve handicapped access; a public meeting was held August 27 to gather ideas.

A "Bear Hunt" August 8 ended the summer reading program at the **Valier Public Library**.

A three-day book sale took place in mid-August at the **Sheridan County Library** in Plentywood.

A Teddy Bear's Picnic drew 55 children on July 25 at the **Blaine County Library** in Chinook.

A modem for patron use is in place at the **Belgrade Public Library**. It will access CATLINK, the online catalog files at MSU.

The **John Gregory Library** in Whitehall had 127 children registered for its summer reading program. A wrapup party was held on August 3.

The fourth annual Bigfork Art and Antique Auction, held August 11, raised money for the **Bigfork Branch Library**.

The **Belgrade Public Library** held an open house September 14 to celebrate one year in its new building. A retrospective look at the library's move to new quarters one year ago appeared August 5 in the **Butte Montana Standard**.

Construction could begin this fall of a new **Marion Branch Library** that would be attached to the school building there.

"Bushels for Books" at **Liberty County Library** in Chester takes

donated wheat bushels and raises money to buy new children's books.

Rawhide braiding and local handmade quilts were on display during August at the **Meagher County-City Library** in White Sulphur Springs.

McCone County Library in Circle gave away a teddy bear in a final summer reading program drawing on August 9.

A back-to-school presentation for parents was held August 20 at **Parmly Billings Library**.

Staff of the U.S. National Commission on Libraries and Information Science toured four of the state's tribal college libraries in mid-August.



Miller Sets Meetings With Public Library Directors

State Librarian Richard Miller will meet with directors of the state's public libraries during the Montana Library Association's Public Library Division retreats in October.

The first retreat will be Friday and Saturday, October 11 & 12, at the Lewis & Clark Library in Helena.

The second is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, October 25 & 26, at the Miles City Public Library.

Miller will meet with the directors from 10 a.m. until noon and again from 7:30 until 9 p.m. during the Friday retreat program.

See page 6 of this newsletter for more information about the retreats.

SRP Evaluations Needed

If you used the State Library's summer reading program (SRP), please return the evaluation sheet in the SRP manual as soon as possible. Your input is needed so we can plan another successful statewide SRP for next year. Call Cathy Siegner at 444-5353 if you need another evaluation form.

Fall Retreats Planned

The MLA's Public Library Division will hold two 1½-day retreats in October focusing on marketing, public relations, continuing education and voluntary certification.

The first retreat is set for Friday and Saturday, Oct. 11 & 12, at the Lewis & Clark Library in Helena.

The second is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, Oct. 25 & 26, at the Miles City Public Library.

Friday morning and evening sessions will be an information exchange between library directors and State Librarian Richard Miller.

Friday afternoon sessions will address marketing and public relations for libraries, presented by Cathy Siegner, Publicity Specialist, Montana State Library.

The Saturday morning sessions cover continuing education, voluntary certification and obtaining the MLS degree in Montana. Presenters are: Bill Cochran, director of Parnly Billings Library, and Sheila Cates, coordinator of Library Development, Montana State Library.

Preregistration deadline is October 4; cost is \$30. Menu choice (chicken, fish or beef) must be made at preregistration. Send your check to Terri Dood, Bozeman Public Library, 220 E. Lamme, Bozeman, MT, 59715.

Calendar of Events

September

- Library Card Sign-up Month
- 16 Center for the Book executive committee, Helena
- 16 Montana MLS Task Force, Helena
- 17-23 Constitution Week
- 27-28 Academic & Special Librarians' retreat, Three Forks
- 28 Broad Valleys Federation, Belgrade
- 29- Banned Books Week
- Oct. 5

October

- 5-6 State Library Commission retreat, Helena area
- 6 Federation Coordinators, Helena
- 7 State Library Commission, Helena
- 11-12 Public Librarians' retreat, Helena
- 14 Columbus Day Holiday
- 25 Tamarack Federation, Kalispell
- 25-26 Public Librarians' retreat, Miles City
- 31- Mountain Plains Library Association, Phoenix
- Nov. 2

Around the State

School Library Changes:

Departing--Jan Dunbar, librarian, West Yellowstone School.
Arriving--Megan Fite, librarian, West Yellowstone School.
Arriving--Dianna Babcock, librarian, Winnett School.

State Library Offers LaserCat Training

Four LaserCat training sessions are scheduled across the state in late October for anyone who has just acquired LaserCat or plans to in the near future.

Each session runs from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. The schedule is:

- Monday, October 21, Sidney Public Library;
- Tuesday, October 22, Parnly Billings Library;
- Thursday, October 24, Polson City Library, and,
- Friday, October 25, Great Falls Public Library.

Conducting the sessions will be Marie Celestre of WLN and Sheila Cates and Bob Cooper of the State Library's Library Development staff.

If you would like to participate in one of these LaserCat training sessions, please register by October 1 by calling Diane Gunderson at the State Library, 444-5349.

Montana State Library Commission

Mayr Doggett,
Chair
White Sulphur Springs

Lloyd Wallin,
Vice-Chair
Deer Lodge

Nancy Keenan
Helena

Anne Hauptman
Billings

Michael Schulz
Dillon

Vada Taylor
Glenview

Peggy Guthrie
Choteau

Commissioners' addresses are in the
Montana Library Directory

Richard T. Miller, Jr., State Librarian

Cathy Siegner, Newsletter Editor,
444-5353

Montana State Library

1515 East Sixth Avenue
Helena, Montana 59620

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